

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

/075 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG:MFR

APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG

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P R 212128Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS STATE 118891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF MAYAGUEZ

REF: STATE 115147 AND STATE 115156

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING  
MAY 19.

2. Q. RON, COULD I TAKE YOU BACK A FEW DAYS AGO TO  
SOMETHING YOU TOLD US ABOUT MR. HUANG CHEN'S MEETING WITH  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE INGERSOLL?

MR. NESSEN: YES

Q. YOU SAID AT THAT TIME THAT THE CHINESE LIAISON OFFICER  
TOOK THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND 24 HOURS LATER IT WAS  
RETURNED.

MR. NESSEN: YES.  
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Q. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAY THAT MR. INGERSOLL  
TRIED TO GIVE HUANG CHEN THAT STATEMENT AND HUANG CHEN  
REFUSED TO TAKE IT AND IT WAS LEFT BY MR. INGERSOLL SOME-  
WHERE IN MR. INGERSOLL'S OFFICE AND MR. INGERSOLL LEFT THE

OFFICE AND WHEN HE CAME BACK, THE STATEMENT WAS STILL THERE.

IF THEY ARE CORRECT AND HUANG CHEN DIDN'T TAKE THE STATEMENT, HOW CAN YOU BE CORRECT IN SAYING THE CHINESE RETURNED IT 24 HOURS LATER? WHICH HAPPENED, IN OTHER WORDS?

MR NESSEN: THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS CORRECT, AND I WAS INCORRECT. HOWEVER, THE MESSAGE WAS--WE ARE SURE THAT BECAUSE OF OTHER METHODS USED THAT THE MESSAGE DID REACH THE CAMBODIANS, AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE THE OTHER DAY, I THINK, THAT THE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING FOR ONE THING, AND I BELIEVE HE ALSO--I THINK THE SECRETARY-- WAIT A MINUTE.

THE MESSAGE WAS, WE ATTEMPTED TO SEND THE MESSAGE BY THREE DIFFERENT CHANNELS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD HUANG CHEN IN AND YOU STATE CORRECTLY WHAT HAPPENED THERE, JIM, AND I WAS INCORRECT LAST WEEK.

Q. THIS WAS ON MONDAY, AND HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE MESSAGE?

MR. NESSEN: THAT IS CORRECT.

THE SECOND METHOD WHICH THE SECRETARY TALKED ABOUT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE WAS THAT A COPY WAS RECEIVED AT THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING.

THE THIRD MESSAGE WHICH THE SECRETARY ALSO DISCUSSED, I BELIEVE, WAS A MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PEKING, AND THAT IS THE ONE THAT WAS RETURNED 24 HOURS LATER.  
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Q. WAS THERE NOT A UN METHOD TOO?

MR. NESSEN: THE FOURTH METHOD WAS THE UN ON THE AFTER-NOON OF TUESDAY, I BELIEVE, WAS IT NOT? AND THE FIFTH METHOD, OF COURSE, WAS THROUGH PUBLIC CHANNELS.

Q. WHERE DID THE PEKING FOREIGN MINISTER RETURN IT, TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN PEKING?

MR. NESSEN: TO MR. BUSH, YES, OR WHOEVER DELIVERED THE MESSAGE.

Q. SO YOU GOT THAT MIXED UP WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IS THAT IT?

MR. NESSEN: YES.

Q. EXCUSE ME, RON. I THOUGHT WE WERE TOLD THAT THE UN MESSAGE WAS ON WEDNESDAY MORNING.

MR. NESSEN: I AM SORRY. I FORGOT THE TIMING OF THOSE, BUT IT WAS EITHER TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY.

Q. RON, ON THE SECOND AVENUE, YOU SAY A COPY WAS RECEIVED AT THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING. CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO US HOW THAT COPY WAS TRANSMITTED, HOW IT GOT TO THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING? IS THIS A CASE OF BUSH, WHO WAS ON THE SCENE, TAKING IT OR HAVING IT SENT TO THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING, WHICH SOUNDS OBVIOUS?

MR. NESSEN: I THINK THAT IS ABOUT ALL WE PROBABLY OUGHT TO SAY ABOUT HOW THE MESSAGES WERE DELIVERED.

Q. THAT MAY WELL BE, EXCEPT THAT IF YOU ARE CONFIRMING THAT A COPY WAS GIVEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT PEKING--

MR. NESSEN: I THINK KISSINGER SAID THAT AT HIS NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK.  
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Q. --AND WAS RETURNED 24 HOURS LATER TO BUSH, IT SEEMS SO OBVIOUS THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. OFFICE IN PEKING GOT A COPY TO THE CAMBODIAN OFFICE IN PEKING. I JUST ASK YOU, WITHOUT GOING BEYOND THE LIMITS IMPOSED ON YOU, WOULD YOU DISPUTE THAT INTERPRETATION IF WE PUT IT ON THE EVENT? I AM MERELY TRYING TO TIDY UP SOME LOOSE ENDS HERE THAT DON'T SEEM TO ME TO INVOLVE ANYTHING TERRIBLY NATIONAL SECURITY.

MR. NESSEN: YOU KNOW, JIM, THAT LOOSE END HAS BEEN TIDIED UP BY SECRETARY KISSINGER LAST WEEK--WHATEVER DAY IT WAS, THE 16TH. HE SAID, "WE DELIVERED IT TO THE CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PEKING." INGERSOLL

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